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BOOK DEPARTMENT

Latin Historical Inscriptions. By G. McN. RUSHFORTH, M. A., St. John's College, Oxford. pp. xxvii. 144. Oxford: The Clarendon Press. New York: Macmillan & Co.

This volume has been prepared for the purpose of enabling "the younger class of students to realize the value of inscriptions as historical evidence." While it might be used as an elementary handbook of Latin Epigraphy, its plan and scope fit it for much more important service than this. In a general way, it demonstrates the value of inscriptions as sources of historical information, and shows the proper method of interpreting them. Practically, it accomplishes a still more definite result in confirming many important facts in the history of the Early Empire by evidence obtained from contemporary monuments, and from records on marble and bronze.

The materials have been taken for the most part from the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, and so far as practicable, the text of the larger work has been reproduced in form and appearance. In some instances, however, especially in the longer documents, certain modifications in typography and arrangement have been introduced when such changes seemed desirable for the sake of convenience, and when they did not necessarily involve any material sacrifice of the historical value of the Latin text. In all such matters, however, the author has wisely adopted a conservative course. A few coins have been added to show the value of such antiques as supplementary aids in the interpretation and verification of the records carved on sepulchral monuments and public structures.

The introduction has been prepared for students who take up the study of this subject for the first time. It contains brief but well digested explanations of epigraphical terms, an enumeration of the different forms of inscriptions proper, and a clear, comprehensive account of the various kinds of public documents which were engraved upon metal and stone. The introductory portion closes with a bibliography, and a list of the principal abbreviations employed in ancient records. In the former, the most important collections are given, but no attempt is made to furnish a complete list of authorities and illustrative works. The general features of the introduction are supplemented, when necessary in the case of particular in-

scriptions, by special explanatory notes, to which are added historical and epigraphical references.

The main body of the work comprises two parts, the first devoted to Augustus, the second beginning with the reign of Tiberius and closing with the accession of Vespasian. In the former, the inscriptions relate to the foundation of the principate, the organization of the provinces, the condition of Rome and Italy, the Imperial family, and the deification and worship of Augustus. In the second part are given many facts gleaned from epigraphical remains and bearing directly upon the history of different emperors and prominent personages from 14 to 69 A. D., together with some account of the administration of the public treasury, and the general condition of Italy, the provinces, and the frontier during that period.

Unusual forms of inflection receive sufficient explanation to make them perfectly intelligible even to beginners ; but the author purposely refrains from dwelling upon these peculiarities or making use of them to illustrate the growth and development of the Latin tongue.

The student is introduced at once to the interpretation of inscriptions for historical rather than linguistic ends. He is not only made to feel their transcendent importance for this purpose, but he is also taught how to obtain and apply for himself the full meaning which they contain either directly or by way of implication. So completely has the author kept himself in sympathy with the learner, and so skillfully has he performed his task, that the earnest student need find no difficulty in thoroughly mastering the contents of the book by his own unaided efforts.

In sifting evidence and elucidating the meaning of inscriptions the author often cites explanatory statements and corroborative testimony from Greek and Roman historians. These citations are rarely numerous, but merely sufficient to show the proper method of interpretation. But this very lack of completeness, which characterizes many of the notes, adds to the practical value of the book for purposes of instruction. The pupil need only follow in the way marked out by the author, and enlarge from his own reading the number of quotations applicable to the point under consideration, to have his interest in the subject increased and the disciplinary and educational value of the study greatly enhanced.

It would be interesting, did space permit, to notice some of

the more instructive inscriptions and important documents included in this collection. Of the longer selections, No. 70, *Lex de Imperio* (C. I. L. VI. 930.) and No. 79, "The Giving of Roman Citizenship to the *Anauni*" (C. I. L. V. 5050), are most worthy of mention. Of inscriptions proper, No. 23, "Syria under P. Sulpicius. A. D. 6" (C. I. L. III. Suppl. 6687), is both valuable from the information it conveys and interesting on account of the various vicissitudes and peculiar history of the inscription itself. It furnishes the learner one of the best examples of historical interpretation in the entire work.

The book is rendered convenient for use by a general index and three special indices. As a text-book it would prove a most valuable supplement to Allen's *Remnants of Early Latin*, and likewise to the larger work of Wordsworth *Fragments and Specimens of Early Latin*.

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Essays and Letters selected from the writings of JOHN RUSKIN with Introductory Interpretations and Annotations. Edited by MRS. LOIS G. HUBBARD, Teacher of English Literature in the High School of Indianapolis, Indiana. pp. 441. GINN & Co., Boston.

There is a charming paper on "Some Personal Reminiscences of Walter Pater" in the *Atlantic Monthly* for December, a writer to be read after Ruskin for suggestive criticism of a riper scholarship, a more exclusive æstheticism, and ideals of thought and expression more austere and clothed in a rarer atmosphere of beauty,—those beatific visions on which the eyes of both Ruskin and Pater are perpetually fixed, albeit from a different point of view. In this paper by William Sharp, Pater is recorded to have said of Ruskin that of the six men then living who are certain to be famous in days to come, he has had by far the most influence over the sentiment of people. And sentiment of the best kind, sentiment clarified, is such a valuable element in education that every help in the way of it is to be welcomed. For "the sentiment of the ideal life is none other than man's normal life as he shall one day know it," is a saying of George Sand which was endorsed more than once by Matthew Arnold. Ruskin has his place as the trainer of sentiment in the library of every teacher and in a generous course of reading for every student ready for this sort of thing.